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**FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 1954****15.13****400 Clinton @ Hickory Street (NW)****Architect: Albert A. Rumschick****Founded 1913**

During the year 1913, a group of residents in the Clinton and Jefferson area banded together to form a Baptist organization. Lacking the services of a full time minister or a permanent place to meet, they met in the homes of members. In 1915, they regrouped and called Rev. D. Robinson as their first minister. Under his leadership, they acquired a building on the corner of Pratt and Clinton Streets and converted it for their use. On 1 October, 1922 the trustees of the church organized as Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, a congregation of almost 300 members.

With Rev. Robinson's death in April, 1929, the congregation called Rev. Twilus Davis as its second pastor. Seeking to assure the future well being of the congregation, he immediately began planning for a new sanctuary. On 30 January, 1930 he purchased a site at 146-148 Hickory. They placed the cornerstone on 16 March, 1930, and dedicated their first building, a \$48,000 house of worship, later that year.

Under the third pastor, Rev. Major J. Jenkins, the congregation retired its debt on the new building. On 8 September, 1941, desiring to further their outreach into the community, they purchased a store at 407 Clinton. Known as the Friendship Community Market, they intended it to serve the residents in the neighborhood around the church.

Upon Rev. Jenkins death in June, 1943, Rev. Clarence L. Franklin assumed the role as leader of the congregation, placing a special emphasis on youth orientated activities. During his tenure, it has been noted that his young daughter, Aretha, began singing in the church choir, the first step in her successful vocal career. Realizing the tremendous potential for growth for the congregation, in 1947 he began acquiring property for a new house of worship.

By 1950, the congregation of over 1,200 members had outgrown their building at 146-148 Hickory. Under Rev. Edward McNeeley, they established a building fund and began acquiring additional land on Clinton Street. They broke ground for the current house of worship on 7 June, 1953 and dedicated their \$150,000 building during a period of celebration from 7-24 August, 1954.

Knowing the success of his ministry rests in the community, Rev. McNeeley became active in the Federal Government's housing programs in the 1960s. Through the combined efforts of Friendship and other neighborhood churches, the Towne Garden Housing Development on Clinton and Hickory was built. He also desired to construct an educational wing, a dream fulfilled in 1994 under the current pastor Rev. A. C. Ware.

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See also:

- [Buffalo Architecture and History - LINKS](#)
- [Buffalo's Houses of Worship on the Internet - LINKS](#)

**Appendix A**  
**Year of Organization for Extant Houses of Worship**  
**(Date of construction in parenthesis)**

- 1812 First Presbyterian Ch (1889)
- 1817 Saint Paul's Episcopal Ch (1849)
- 1819 Riverside ME Ch (1872, 1912)
- 1822 First Baptist Ch (1899)
- 1824 Grace Episcopal Ch (1916)
- 1827 Black Rock Union Meeting House (1827)
- 1829 Saint Louis RC Ch (1886)
- 1830 Saint Peter's Evangelical Ch (1877)
- 1831 First Unitarian Ch (1833, 1904)  
West Avenue Presbyterian Ch (1889)
- 1832 Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Ch (1894)
- 1835 Central Presbyterian Ch (1910)
- 1836 Trinity Episcopal Ch (1886)
- 1837 First Evangelical Ch (1879)  
→ Michigan Street Baptist Ch (1845)
- 1839 First Trinity Lutheran Ch (1867)  
Trinity Old Lutheran Ch (1923)
- 1843 SS Paul's & Mark's United Ch of Christ (1987)

## 1895

Ahavas Achim Syn-Fillmore Avenue Shul (1912)  
Bethel German Baptist Ch (1895)  
English Evangelical Lutheran Ch of the Redeemer (1912)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement (1927)  
Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Cathedral (1904)  
Saint Jude's Episcopal Ch (1928)  
Saint Paul's Reformed Ch (1914)  
Zion English Evangelical Lutheran Ch (c1900)  
Zoar Reformed Ch (1906)

## 1896

Delevan Avenue Baptist Ch (1915)  
Parkside Unitarian Ch (1897)  
Plymouth Brethren of Christ Ch (1898)  
Saint Clement's Episcopal Ch (1917)

## 1897

Cazenovia Park Baptist Ch (1939)  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help RC Ch. (1897)  
Saint Teresa's RC Ch (1898)

## 1898

Ch of the Nativity RC Ch (1901)  
Corpus Christi RC Ch (1907)  
Gologtha German Evangelical Ch (1899)  
Memorial Evangelical Ch (1909)  
Precious Blood RC Ch (1899)  
Saint Simon's Episcopal Ch (1903, 1925)  
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC Ch (1899)

## 1899

Christ German Evangelical Ch ( 1899)  
New Apostolic Ch (c1899)  
Saint Mary Magdalene RC Ch (1906)

## 1900

Church of the Divine Humanity (1900)  
First Seventh Day Adventist Ch ( 1900)  
Saint John's Evangelical Reformed Ch (1900)

## 1901

→ Saint Luke's AME Zion Ch (1922)

## 1902

Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Ch (1907)  
Holy Family RC Ch (1905)  
Pilgrim English Evangelical Ch (1913)  
Saint Gerard's RC Ch (1902, 1911)  
Saint Joachim RC Ch (1954)

- Plymouth Congregational Church

### Section 11 - North Park

- Introduction
- Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church
- B'rith Isreal Anshe Ames Synagogue
- Avahas Achinm Lubavitz Synagogue
- North Park Baptist Church
- North Park United Presbyterian Church
- Saint Margaret's Roman Catholic Church
- North Park United Presbyterian Church
- Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
- North Park Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Temple Beth David Nu Israel Congregation
- Saint Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church
- Chapel of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns
- Evangelical Covenant Church
- Grace Baptist Tabernacle

### Section 12 - The Fruit Belt

- Introduction
- 1927 ✓ Saint John Baptist Church 1969
- Saint Paul's Evangelical Church
- High Street Baptist Church
- Masten Park Baptist Church
- 1959 ✓ New Zion Missionary Baptist Church 1925
- ✓ Refuge Temple of Christ
- Saint James Evangelical Church

### Section 13 - Cold Springs

- Introduction
- Calvary English Evangelical Lutheran Church
- American Scandinavian ME Church
- Emmaus Lutheran Church
- Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Lebanon Presbyterian Church
- Chapel of the Sacred Heart
- Memorial Evangelical Church
- Word of Faith Church of God in Christ
- Saint Nicholas Roman Catholic Church
- First United Brethren Church
- Glenwood Avenue Baptist Church
- Cold Springs Church of God in Christ
- Second United Presbyterian Church

### Section 14 - Hamlin Park

- Introduction
- Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
- 1950 ✓ Zion Missionary Baptist Church 1978
- Central Church of Christ

- Trinity Old Lutheran Church
- Second United Presbyterian Church
- Saint Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement
- Lutheran Church of Our Savior
- Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
- Calvary Gospel Tabernacle
- Central Park Methodist Episcopal Church
- First Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Christ Mission Church
- Christ the King Chapel
- Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church

### Section 15 - Germania I -The Melting Pot

- Introduction
- 1831 ✓ Michigan Street Baptist Church 1845
- First Trinity Lutheran Church
- Saint Peter's Evangelical Church
- New Apostolic Church
- First Evangelical Church
- First German Baptist Church
- The Pentecostal Church of God
- 1918 ✓ Pleasant Grove Baptist Church 1976
- 1901 ✓ Saint Luke's AME Zion Church 1922 -Durham AME Zion
- 1916 ✓ First Shiloh Baptist Church 1964
- Saint James Episcopal Church
- Saint Colomba's Roman Catholic Church
- 1913 ✓ Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 1954
- Lloyd's Memorial United Church of Christ

### Section 16 - The Hydraulics

- Introduction
- Saint Matthew's German Evangelical Protestant Church
- Hope Chapel/Fillmore Avenue Baptist Church
- Saint Rita's Slovak Roman Catholic Church
- Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Holy Apostles Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church
- Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
- Bethel Tabernacle United Holy Church of America
- ✓ Saint Paul AME Zion Church
- Holy Temple Church of God in Christ
- Sentinel Methodist Episcopal Church

### Section 17 - Germania II

- Introduction
- 1972 ✓ First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 1983
- 1938 ✓ Calvary Baptist Church 1948
- Temple Ahavath Sholem
- Saint Stephen's Evangelical Church
- Saint Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Saint Ann's Roman Catholic Church



- Bethel German Baptist Church
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Salem Evangelical Reformed Church
- Memorial Temple Church of God in Christ

#### Section 18 - Polonia

- Introduction
- Saint Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Roman Catholic Church
- Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church
- Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church
- Church of Our Savior Polish Baptist Church
- Ahavas Achim Synagogue/Fillmore Avenue Shul
- Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church
- Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church
- Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Church
- Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Church
- Saint Luke's Roman Catholic Church
- Saint Joachim's Roman Catholic Church
- Saint John Kanty Roman Catholic Church

#### Section 19 - Germania III

- Introduction
- Saint Mary of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church
- Pilgrim English Evangelical Church
- Metropolitan Methodist Church
- Bethlehem German Evangelical Church
- Zoar Reformed Church
- Saint Mary Magdalene Roman Catholic Church
- Emmanuel Evangelical Reformed Church
- Humboldt Parkway Methodist Church
- Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion
- Temple Beth David
- Evening Star Church of God in Christ
- Greater Apostolic House of Prayer
- Glenwood Avenue Church of Christ

#### Section 20 - Germania IV

- Introduction
- Saint Matthew's Roman Catholic Church
- Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
- Jerusalem German Evangelical Reformed Church
- Hedstrom Memorial Baptist Church
- Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church
- Sumner Place ME Church
- Walden Presbyterian Church
- Chapel of the Holy Rosary
- Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church
- Saint Andrew's Evangelical Church

## Section 21 - Germania V - The Jammer-Thal

- Introduction
- Pentecostal Tabernacle
- ✓ Mount Olivet Baptist Church
- Delavan Avenue Baptist Church
- Grace Reformed Church
- Saint Bartholmew's Roman Catholic Church
- Saint Clement's Episcopal Church
- Kensington Church of the Christian & Missionary Alliance
- Kensington Methodist Church
- Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church
- Tabor Lutheran Church
- Gologtha German Evangelical Church
- First United Pentecostal Church

## Section 22 - University Heights

- Introduction
- Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
- White Memorial United Brethren Church
- Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
- University Presbyterian Church
- University Church of Christ
- Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Pentecostal Holiness Church
- Free Methodist Church

## Section 23 - Bailey/Kensington North

- Introduction
- Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist
- University Methodist Church
- Grace Evangelical Church
- Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Kensington Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Trinity Reformed Church
- Bethany Lutheran Church
- Saint James Roman Catholic Church
- Kensington Gospel Hall
- ? 1927 ✓ Calvary Baptist Church 1933 1264 Kensington. (Borkenhagen)
- Cleveland Hill Evangelical United Brethren Church
- Saint James Episcopal Church

## Section 24 - Bailey/Kensington South

- Introduction
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church
- First Italian Baptist Church
- Saint Lawrence Roman Catholic Church
- MacAlpine Presbyterian Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- Grace United Brethren Church
- Saint Gerard's Roman Catholic Church